

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for indicating that a product or item on display matches a set of consumer preferences comprising the steps of:
  - 5 establishing an identity of a consumer;
  - accessing a persistent datastore to retrieve a set of preferences associated with said consumer identity;
  - determining if any products on display match said preferences; and
  - providing an indicator associated with products which match said preferences
  - 10 such that said consumer is alerted to the presence of the products.
2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of establishing the identity of a consumer is selected from the group of reading a radio frequency identifier tag, reading a bar code, reading a magnetic stripe, and receiving input of a personal identifier code.
- 15 3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing a persistent datastore comprises accessing a database.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of determining if any products match said preferences includes a step from the group of matching a consumer size, matching a preferred color, and matching a preferred price.
- 20 5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing an indicator associated with products which match said preferences includes a step from

the group of illuminating a lamp, illuminating a light emitting diode, and providing a text display.

6. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

retrieving an information data set associated with said products which match

5                   said preferences; and

transmitting said information data set to a preferred electronic destination

associated with said consumer such that said consumer may collect

said information data set for review and reference.

7. The method as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said step of transmitting said

10                  information data set comprises transmitting an electronic mail message to an electronic mail address.

8. The method as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said step of transmitting said

information data set comprises transmitting an electronic file to a electronic mail address.

15     9. The method as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said step of transmitting said information data set comprises transmitting an electronic mail message to a persistent computing device selected from the group of an Internet-enabled wireless telephone, a wireless networked personal digital assistant, and a wireless Internet browser appliance.

20     10. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

accessing an inventory datastore; and

determining if a product which matches said preferences is also in stock.

11. A computer readable medium encoded with software for indicating that a product or item on display matches a set of consumer preferences, said software causing a computer to perform the steps of:

5 establish an identity of a consumer;

access a persistent datastore to retrieve a set of preferences associated with said consumer identity;

determine if any products on display match said preferences; and

provide an indicator associated with products which match said preferences such that said consumer is alerted to the presence of the products.

10 12. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for establishing an identity of a consumer comprises software for performing a step selected from the group of reading a radio frequency identifier tag, reading a bar code, reading a magnetic stripe, and receiving input of a personal identifier code.

15 13. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for accessing a persistent datastore comprises software for accessing a database.

14. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software for determining if any products match said preferences comprises software for performing a step from the group of matching a consumer size, matching a preferred color, and matching a preferred price.

20 15. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software

for providing an indicator associated with products which match said preferences includes a software for performing a step from the group of illuminating a lamp, illuminating a light emitting diode, and providing a text display.

5      16. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising  
software for performing the steps of:  
  
retrieve an information data set associated with said products which match  
  
said preferences; and  
  
transmit said information data set to a preferred electronic destination  
  
10     associated with said consumer such that said consumer may collect  
  
said information data set for review and reference.  
  
17. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said software  
for transmitting said information data set comprises software for transmitting  
  
an electronic mail message to an electronic mail address.  
  
15     18. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said software  
for transmitting said information data set comprises software for transmitting  
  
an electronic file to an electronic mail address.  
  
19. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said software  
for transmitting said information data set comprises software for transmitting  
  
20     an electronic mail message to a persistent computing device selected from the  
group of an Internet-enabled wireless telephone, a wireless networked  
personal digital assistant, and a wireless Internet browser appliance.

20. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising software for performing the steps of:  
accessing an inventory datastore; and  
determining if a product which matches said preferences is also in stock.

5 21. A system for indicating that a product or item on display matches a set of consumer preferences comprising:  
a consumer identifier unit adapted to establish an identity of a consumer;  
a consumer preference retriever for accessing a persistent datastore to retrieve a set of preferences associated with said consumer identity;

10 a preference comparitor which receives said set of preferences and compares those to characteristics of products on display to determine if any products match said preferences; and  
at least one indicator associated with a product display which, responsive to a match being found, is activated such that said consumer is alerted to  
15 the presence of the matching product.

22. The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said consumer identifier unit is adapted to perform a function selected from the group of reading a radio frequency identifier tag, reading a bar code, reading a magnetic stripe, and receiving input of a personal identifier code.

20 23. The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said consumer preference retriever is adapted to access a database.

24. The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said preference comparitor is

adapted to perform a function from the group of matching a consumer size, matching a preferred color, and matching a preferred price.

25. The system as set forth in Claim 21 wherein said indicator comprises

an indicator from the group of a lamp, a light emitting diode, and a text display.

26. The system as set forth in Claim 21 further comprising

a product information data set retriever for retrieving information associated with said product which matches said preferences; and

an information data set transmitter adapted to transmit said information data

10 set to a preferred electronic destination associated with said consumer such that said consumer may collect said information data set for review and reference.

27. The system as set forth in Claim 26 wherein said information data set

transmitter is adapted to transmit an electronic mail message to an electronic mail address.

15 28. The system as set forth in Claim 26 wherein said information data set

transmitter is adapted to transmit an electronic file to a electronic mail address.

29. The system as set forth in Claim 26 wherein said information data set

20 transmitter is adapted to transmit an electronic mail message to a persistent computing device selected from the group of an Internet-enabled wireless telephone, a wireless networked personal digital assistant, and a wireless

Internet browser appliance.

30. The system as set forth in Claim 21 further comprising an inventory datastore query processor for accessing an inventory control system to determine if a product which matches said preferences is also in stock.

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